AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amendment) In a computer system that is network connectable along with one or more other computer systems to a network, the computer system including a processor and system memory, a method for ~~creating~~formulating an electronic message that is natively compatible with a plurality of different message protocols and natively compatible a with a plurality of different message applications and can be stored and accessed with increased efficiency, the method comprising:

an act of the processor creating a message item representing the electronic message in accordance with a message schema, the message item having one or more general properties common to [[a]]the plurality of different message protocols and common to [[a]]the plurality of different message applications, message item creation including:

an act of ~~the processor~~ assigning a primary type to the message item, the primary type indicating a primary behavior of ~~one or more~~ a plurality of content portions linked to the message item;

an act of making the message item compatible with the plurality of different message protocols, including for each different message protocol in the plurality of different message protocols:

an act of ~~making the message item simultaneously compatible with the plurality of different message protocols by~~ ~~assigning~~ attaching protocol specific data fields from at least one protocol specific extension schema to the message item ~~for each of the plurality of different message protocols~~ to make the plurality of linked content portions compatible with the message protocol, each protocol specific extension accounting for ~~other~~ any properties that are not common between the plurality of different message protocols~~, each assigned at least one protocol extension adding one or more protocol specific properties from a protocol extension schema~~

~~corresponding to a specified message protocol, selected from among the plurality of different message protocols, to the created message item such that the one or more linked content portions of the message item are compatible with the specified message protocol~~; and

an act of assigning values to the protocol specific data fields;

an act of making the message item compatible with the plurality of different message applications, including for each different message application in the plurality of different message applications:

an act of ~~making the message item simultaneously compatible with the plurality of different message applications by assigning~~ attaching application specific data fields from at least one application specific extension to the message item ~~for each of the plurality of different message applications~~ to make the plurality of linked content portions compatible with the message application, each application specific extension schema accounting for properties that are not common between the plurality of different message applications, ~~each assigned at least one application extension adding one or more application specific properties from an application extension schema corresponding to a specified message application, selected from among the plurality of different message application, to the message item such that the one or more linked content portions of the message item are compatible with the specified message application.~~; and

an act of assigning values to properties of the at least one application specific extension; and

an act of assigning values to at least one general property that is common between two different messaging extensions.

Claim 2. (Cancelled).

3. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the an act of assigning a primary type to the created message item comprises an act of assigning a primary type to the

created message item, the primary type being selected from among electronic mail message, instant message, fax message, voice message, news group posting.

4. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 3, wherein the [[an]] act of attaching at least one protocol specific message extension to the message item~~making the message item simultaneously compatible with the plurality of different message protocols by assigning at least one protocol extension to the message item for each of the plurality of different message protocols to account for other properties that are not common between the plurality of different message protocols~~ comprises an act of ~~assigning one or more~~ attaching at least one protocol specific extension[[s]] to the message item, the at least one or more protocol specific extension[[s]] being selected from among: electronic mail protocol extensions, instant messaging protocol extensions, fax protocol extensions, voice message protocol extensions and, news group posting protocol extensions.

5. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 3, wherein the act of attaching at least one application specific extension to the message item~~making the message item simultaneously compatible with the plurality of different message protocols by assigning at least one protocol extension to the message item for each of the plurality of different message protocols to account for other properties that are not common between the plurality of different message protocols~~ comprises an act of ~~assigning~~ attaching a POP3 protocol extension ~~from an electronic mail POP3 extension schema~~ to the message item, the POP3 protocol extension from an electronic mail POP3 extension schema.

6. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 5, wherein the act of attaching at least one application specific extension to the message item~~making the message item simultaneously compatible with the plurality of different message protocols by assigning at least one protocol extension to the message item for each of the plurality of different message protocols to account for other properties that are not common between the plurality of different message protocols~~ comprises an act of ~~assigning~~ attaching an NNTP protocol extension from the electronic mail NNTP extension schema to the message item, while the POP3 protocol extension also remains attached to the message item.

7. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 3, wherein the act of attaching at least one protocol specific message extension to the message item~~making the message item simultaneously compatible with the plurality of different message protocols by assigning at least one protocol extension to the message item for each of the plurality of different message protocols to account for other properties that are not common between the plurality of different message protocols~~ comprises an act of ~~assigning~~ attaching a community news protocol extension ~~from an electronic mail community news extension schema~~ to the message item, the community news protocol extension from an electronic mail community news extension schema.

8. (Cancelled).

9. (Currently Amendment) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the act of attaching at least one application specific extension to the message item~~making the message item simultaneously compatible with the plurality of different message applications by assigning at least one application extension to the message item for each of the plurality of different message applications to account for other properties that are not common between the plurality of different message applications~~ comprises an act of ~~assigning~~ attaching at least one ~~or more~~ application extension[[s]] to the message item, the at least one [[or]] more application extension[[s]] being selected from among: electronic mail application extensions, instant messaging application extensions, fax application extensions, voice message application extensions, and news group posting application extensions.

10. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 1[[9]], wherein the act of ~~assigning~~ attaching at least one ~~or more~~ application extension[[s]] to the ~~created~~ message item comprises an act of [[assigning]] attaching a[[n]] Microsoft® Outlook® Express application extension to the ~~created~~ message item.

11. (Cancelled).

12. (Currently Amended) ~~In a computer system that is network connectable along with one or more other computer systems to a network, the computer system including a processor and system memory, a method for supplementing an electronic message, which was created in accordance with a message schema, to make the electronic message compatible with an additional message protocol or an additional message application, the electronic message currently compatible with at least one message protocol and at least one message application, the method~~ The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising an act of supplementing the message item with additional data to make the message item further compatible with at least one additional message protocol or additional message application, including:

an act of, subsequent to message creation, accessing [[a]]the message item ~~representing the electronic message, the message item having the one or more general properties common to a plurality of different message protocols and common to a plurality of different message applications, the message item also having one or more currently assigned specific properties, the currently assigned specific properties being specific to at least one of a message protocol from among the plurality of message protocols or a message application from among the plurality of message applications~~;

an act of the processor snapping on data fields from a further message extension schema to the message item, the data fields defined in the further message extension schema having one or more new ~~specific~~ properties that are to be associated with the message item to facilitate compatibility with ~~the~~ an additional message protocol or ~~the~~ an additional message application;

an act of retrieving at least one value from [[the]] one or more other data fields attached to the message~~currently assigned specific properties~~; and

an act of assigning the retrieved at least one value to at least one of the snapped on data fields to make the message item compatible with the [[the]] additional message protocol or the additional message application such that the message item [[is]]contains data making it ~~simultaneously~~ compatible with the ~~at least one~~ plurality of different message protocols, the ~~at least one~~ plurality of different message applications, and the additional message protocol or the additional message application.

13. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 12, wherein the act of accessing [[a]] the message item ~~representing the electronic message, the message item having the one or more general properties common to a plurality of different message protocols and a plurality of different message applications~~ comprises an act of accessing a message item representing the electronic message, the message item having the one or more general properties that are common to the plurality of different message protocols and the plurality of different message applications.

14. (Previously Presented) The message as recited in claim 12, wherein the act of snapping on data fields defined in a further message extension schema to the message item comprises an act of snapping on data fields from a further message extension schema, the further message extension schema selected from among: electronic mail protocol extension schemas, instant messaging protocol extension schemas, fax protocol extension schemas, voice message protocol extension schemas, news group posting protocol extension schemas, electronic mail application extension schemas, instant messaging application extension schemas, fax application extension schemas, voice message application extension schemas, and news group posting application extension schemas.

15. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 12, wherein an act of retrieving at least one value from [[the]] ~~one or more existing specific properties~~other data fields attached to the message comprises on act of retrieving values from one or more data fields ~~existing specified properties from~~ of a message item that represents one of: an electronic mail message, a fax message, an instant message, a voice message, or a news group posting.

16. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 12, wherein the act of assigning the retrieved at least one value to at least one of the snapped on data fields comprises an act of assigning a value retrieved from a data field defined in one of an electronic mail message extension schema, a fax message extension schema, an instant message extension schema, a voice message extension schema, or a news group posting extension schema, to a snapped on data field defined in one of an electronic mail message extension schema, a fax

message extension schema, an instant message extension schema, a voice message extension schema, or a news group posting extension schema.

Claim 17. (Cancelled).

18. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the act of creating a message item representing an electronic message comprises an act of creating a message item including:

a general properties field representing common electronic message properties that are common to a plurality of different types of message protocols and a plurality of different types of message applications; and

at least one protocol specific property field, the at least one protocol specific property field representing one or more protocol specific message properties that correspond to a specific message protocol, the specific message protocol being selecting from among the plurality of different types of message protocols that have the common electronic message properties represented in the general properties field in common.

19. (Currently Amended) The method as [[as]] recited in claim 18, wherein the at least one protocol specific property field comprises:

a protocol specific property field representing one or more protocol specific message properties that correspond to one of an electronic mail protocol, an instant messaging protocol, a fax protocol, a voice message protocol, or a news group protocol.

20. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 18, wherein the act of creating a message item comprises an act of creating a message item including:

at least one application specific property field, the at least one application specific property field representing one or more application specific electronic message properties that correspond to a specific message application, the specific message application being selecting from among the plurality of different types of message applications that have the common electronic message properties represented in the general properties field in common.

21. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the act of creating a message item representing an electronic message comprises an act of creating a data structure including:

a general properties field representing common electronic message properties that are common to a plurality of different types of message protocols and a plurality of different types of message applications; and

at least one application specific property field, the at least one application specific property field representing one or more application specific electronic message properties that correspond to a specific message application, the specific message application being selecting from among the plurality of different types of message applications that have the common electronic message properties represented in the general properties field in common.

22. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 21, wherein the at least one application specific property field comprises:

an application specific property field representing one or more application specific message properties that correspond to one of an electronic mail application, an instant messaging application, a fax application, a voice message application, or a news group application.

23. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the act of creating a message item representing an electronic message comprises an act of creating a message item including:

an ID field representing an identifier that identifies the electronic message within an message database;

a primary type field representing a primary message type of the electronic message identified by the identifier represented in the ID field, the primary message type implying a behavior of the electronic message;

at least one MessageParticipant relationship field representing links to one or more message participants associated with the electronic message identified by the identifier represented in the ID field;

at least one MessageContents relationship field representing links to one or more portions of message content corresponding to the electronic message electronic message identified by the identifier represented in the ID field;

at least one sent message folder relationship field representing links to one or more message folders the electronic message identified by the identifier represented in the ID field is to be moved to after being submitted for delivery; and

a download state field representing a download state of the electronic message identified by the identifier represented in the ID field.

24. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 23, wherein the act of creating a message item further comprises an act of creating a message item including:

a message status field representing the status of the electronic message identified by the identifier represented in the ID field.

25. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 24, wherein the message status field is comprised of:

an IsRead field representing an indication of whether or not the electronic message in identified by the identifier represented in the ID field has been marked as read;

a SendStatus field representing an indication of the send status of the electronic message identified by the identifier represented in the ID field;

a LastActionTaken field representing an indication of the last action that was taken on the electronic message identified by the identifier represented in the ID field;

a LastActionTime field representing the time that the last action indicated in the LastActionTaken field was taken; and

a LastActionType field representing the type of that last action taken on the electronic message identified by the identifier represented in the ID field.

26. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the one or more content portions linked to the message item include:

an electronic message relationship field representing a link to an electronic message, the link indicating that the portion of message content is associated with an electronic message;

a content type field representing a content type corresponding to the portion of message content;

an order field representing an order value, the order value indicating how the portion of message content is to be ordered with respect to other portions of message content that are also associated with the electronic message; and

a content properties field representing additional properties of the content type represented in the content type field.

27. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 26, wherein the content properties field comprises:

an attachment type field representing an attachment type of the portion of message content.

28. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 26, wherein the content properties field comprises:

a MIME URL field representing a link to a MIME path that corresponds to the portion of message content.

29. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the act of assigning a primary type to the message item, the primary type indicating a primary behavior of the one or more content portions linked to the item comprises an act of assigning a primary type indicating the behavior of a message attachment attached to the message item, wherein the message attachment includes:

an electronic message relationship field representing a link to the message item, the link indicating that the message attachment is associated with the message item;

a type field representing a message type of the electronic message linked to by the link represented in the electronic message link field, the message type implying a behavior of the electronic message;

an IsPinned field representing the deletion status of the message attachment with respect to the electronic message ;

an IsTrusted field representing trust information related to the message attachment; and

an attachment state field representing the type and behavior of the message attachment.

30. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 29, wherein the message attachment further includes:

an attachment source relationship field representing a link to a database item where the message attachment was accessed.

31. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 29, wherein the message attachment further includes:

an saved from relationship field representing a link to the message attachment.

32. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 7, wherein the act of assigning a community news protocol extension from an electronic mail community news extension schema to the message item comprising an act of attaching data fields from the electronic mail community news extension schema to the message item, the data fields including:

a community range field representing a collection of article ID ranges from a news group community that have been synchronized with community header properties;

a communities last refresh field representing the last time the community dynamic properties of the news group community including the collection of synchronized article IDs represented in the community range field was refreshed;

a low article ID field representing a low article ID included the a collection of synchronized article ID ranges represented in the community range field; and

a high article ID field representing a high article ID included the a collection of synchronized article ID ranges represented in the community range field.

Claim 33. (Cancelled).

34. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 3, wherein the act of creating a message item representing an electronic message comprises an act of creating a message item including:

a primary type field defining a format for representing a primary message type corresponding to an electronic message, the primary message type implying a behavior of the electronic message;

a participants relationship field defining a format for representing links to message participants, the message participants being associated with the electronic message having a primary message type defined in accordance with the primary message type format in the primary type field;

a contents relationship field defining a format for representing links to one or more portions of message content, the one or more portions of content corresponding to the electronic message having a primary message type defined in accordance with the primary message type format in the primary type field;

a sent message folder relationship field defining a format for representing links to one or more message folders that the electronic message, having a primary message type defined in accordance with the primary message type format in the primary type field, should be moved to after being submitted for delivery; and

a download state field defining a format for representing download states corresponding to the electronic message having a primary message type defined in accordance with the primary message type format in the primary type field; and

wherein the act of assigning a primary type to the message item comprises an act of assigning a value to the primary type field

35. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 34, an act of creating a message item comprises an act of creating a message item including:

a message status field defining a format for representing the status of the electronic message having a primary message type defined in accordance with the primary message type format in the primary type field, the message schema including or referring to a message status schema that defines the format for representing the status of the electronic message.

36. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 35, wherein the message status field includes:

an IsRead field defining a format for representing an indication of whether or not the electronic message in identified by the identifier represented in the ID field has been marked as read;

a SendStatus field defining a format for representing an indication of the send status of the electronic message identified by the identifier represented in the ID field;

a LastActionTaken field defining a format for representing an indication of the last action that was taken on the electronic message identified by the identifier represented in the ID field;

a LastActionTime field defining a format representing the time that the last action indicated in the LastActionTaken field was taken;

a LastActionType field defining a format representing the type of that last action taken on the electronic message identified by the identifier represented in the ID field.

Claims 37-43. (Cancelled).

44. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for use in a computer system that is network connectable along with one or more other computer systems to a network, the computer program product for implementing a method for ~~creating~~ formulating an electronic message that is natively compatible with a plurality of different message protocols and natively compatible with a plurality of different message applications, can be stored and accessed with increased efficiency, the computer program product comprising one or more computer storage ~~media~~ devices having stored thereon computer executable instructions that, when executed by a processor, cause the computer system to perform the following:

create a message item representing the electronic message in accordance with a message schema, the message item having one or more general properties common to [[a]]the plurality of different message protocols and common to [[a]]the plurality of different message applications, message item creation including;

assign a primary type to the message item, the primary type indicating a primary behavior of ~~one or more~~ a plurality of content portions linked to the message item;

make the message item compatible with the plurality of different message protocols, including for each different message protocol in the plurality of different message protocols:

~~making the message item simultaneously compatible with the plurality of different message protocols by assigning at least one protocol extension to the message item, each assigned~~ attach protocol specific data fields from at least one protocol extension schema to the message item to make the plurality of linked portions of content compatible with the message protocol, each protocol specific extension schema accounting for any properties that are not common between the plurality of different message protocols~~adding one or more protocol specific properties from a protocol extension schema corresponding to a specified message protocol, selected from among the plurality of different message protocols, to the created message item such that the one or more linked content portions of the message item are compatible with the specified message protocol~~; and

assign values to properties of the at least one protocol specific extension;

make the message item compatible with the plurality of different message applications, including for each different message application in the plurality of different message applications:

~~make the message item simultaneously compatible with the plurality of different message applications by assigning~~ attach application specific data fields from at least one application specific extension to the message item ~~for each of the plurality of different message applications~~ to make plurality of linked content portions compatible with the message application, each application specific extension schema accounting for properties that are not common between the plurality of different message applications~~, each assigned at least one application extension adding one or more application specific properties from an application extension schema corresponding to a specified message application, selected from among the plurality of different message application, to the message item so as to such that the one or more linked content portions of the message item are compatible with the specified message application.~~and ;

assign values to properties of the at least one application specific extension; and

an act of assigning values to at least one general property that is common between two different messaging extensions.

45. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The computer program product as recited in claim 44, further comprising ~~for use in a computer system that is network connectable along with one or more other computer systems to a network, the computer program product for implementing a method for supplementing an electronic message, which was created in accordance with a message schema, to make the electronic message compatible with an additional message protocol or an additional message application , the electronic message currently compatible with at least one message protocol and at least one message application, the computer program~~

~~product comprising one or more computer storage media having stored thereon~~ computer executable instructions that, when executed ~~by a processor~~, cause the computer system to perform the following:

subsequent to message creation, access [[a]]the message item ~~representing the electronic message, the message item having the one or more general properties common to a plurality of different message protocols and a plurality of different message applications, the message item also having one or more currently assigned specific properties, the currently assigned specific properties being specific to at least one of a message protocol from among the plurality of message protocols or a message application form among a plurality of message applications~~;

snap on data fields defined from a further message extension schema to the message item, the data fields defined in the further message extension schema having one or more new ~~specific~~ properties that are to be associated with the message item to facilitate compatibility with ~~the~~ an additional message protocol or ~~the~~an additional message application;

an act of retrieving at least one value from ~~the~~ one or more other data fields attached to the message~~currently assigned specific properties~~; and

an act of assigning the retrieved at least one value to at least one of the snapped on data fields to make the message item compatible with the additional message protocol or the additional message application such that the message item ~~is simultaneously~~ contains data making it compatible with the ~~at least one~~ plurality of different message protocols, the ~~at least one~~ plurality of different message applications, and the additional message protocol or the additional message application.

Claims 46 and 47. (Cancelled).

48. (Previously Presented). The method as recited in claim 12, wherein the act of snapping on fields from a further message extension schema to the message item comprise act of snapping on fields from an instant message application extension schema to a message item that is currently compatible with an electronic mail message application; and

wherein the act of assigning the retrieved at least one value to at least one of the snapped on data fields to make the message item compatible with the additional message protocol or the additional message application comprises an act of assigning the retrieved value to least one data field snapped on from the instant message application extension schema to make the message item compatible with both an instant message application and the electronic mail message application.

49. (Previously Presented). The method as recited in claim 12, wherein the act of snapping on fields from a further message extension schema to the message item comprise act of snapping on fields from an electronic mail message application schema to a message item that is currently compatible with first electronic mail message application; and

wherein the act of assigning the retrieved at least one value to at least one of the snapped on data fields to make the message item compatible with the additional message protocol or the additional message application comprises an act of assigning the retrieved value to least one data field snapped on from the electronic mail message application extension schema to make the message item compatible with both a second electronic mail message application and the first electronic mail message application.

50. (Previously Presented). The method as recited in claim 12, wherein the act of snapping on fields from a further message extension schema to the message item comprise act of snapping on fields from one of: a fax protocol schema and a voice message protocol schema to a message item that is currently compatible with an electronic mail message protocol; and

wherein the act of assigning the retrieved at least one value to at least one of the snapped on data fields to make the message item compatible with the additional message protocol or the additional message application comprises an act of assigning the retrieved value to least one data field snapped on from the one of the fax protocol schema and the voice message protocol schema to make the message item compatible with the electronic mail protocol and one of a fax application and a voice message application corresponding to the fax protocol schema and the voice message protocol schema respectively.